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ABSTRACT

A profile of child welfare in the State of New York is presented in this booklet, which includes many documentary photographs and statistics drawn from a variety of sources. General facts about population size and income levels are provided, as well as data on children's health care, hunger, and nutrition; juvenile justice; children alone and at risk; and homelessness. Two statewide organizations for child welfare, the Children's Collaborative and Statewide Youth Advocacy, Inc., are also briefly discussed. One in four New Yorkers is under 18, and 26 percent of them are classified as poor. One of every two Black and one of every three Hispanic children are poor, but 43 percent of New York's poor children are White. Statistically, poor children are more likely to come from broken families, and more likely to receive inadequate education and health and child service. One out of every three New York State students fails to complete high school, and New York schools are among the most racially segregated in the nation. This bleak picture is growing worse, and yet assistance programs remain inadequate for meeting the needs of the State's children. Information on membership in the Children's Collaborative is supplied and readers are urged to join and to become active advocates for children in need. (KH)

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A Portrait of New York's Children

SHATTERED LIVES

A Portrait of New York's Children

As Reported By
Statewide Youth Advocacy, Inc.
Rochester, New York

Dedicated to the children of New York State

Credits

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Introduction

For millions of New Yorkers and their children, New York is a hospitable place to live. From the glamour of New York City to Long Island's glorious beaches to the rolling Catskill and Adirondack Mountains, New York is a place of both natural and man-made beauty. For the fortunate, New York's schools, housing, economy and care-giving institutions nurture healthy, promising lives.

For the unfortunate, New York offers a different, harsher reality. That reality is painted in *Shattered Lives — A Portrait of New York's Children.* In this portrait, we see a darker image — an image of growing deprivation in the lives of one out of every four of New York's children. The pictures and facts we present show a situation which is bleak and growing bleaker. Handicapped during their early years by hunger, broken families, inadequate education, health and child care services, these young people grow to adulthood bearing lifelong scars.

We can prevent much of this trauma. We have seen that hunger can be wiped out by a stroke of national will; that infant mortality rates can be significantly lowered by adequate prenatal care; that a head start for all children at risk could appreciably lower our drop-out rates, reduce the incidence of crime and delinquency and improve the employment opportunities of thousands. This report's haunting data shows that in

each of these areas our state programs are lagging far behind the need.

New York State has long recognized the importance of investing in its future. In recent years, federal reductions in children's programs have heightened the importance of the state's role. The state has made some new investments: child care, services for those at risk of out-of-home placement, teen parents, prenatal care and nutrition programs have all benefited from the development of innovative state programs.

Nevertheless, the state has not kept pace with the growing needs of our next generation. Basic assistance and Medicaid eligibility levels, set by the state, have not kept up with cost of living increases. As a result, the programs today serve a lower proportion of those in need than a decade ago. In some instances, lack of state outreach and poor local administration lead to underutilization of programs crucial to the health and welfare of needy New Yorkers. Furthermore, like the federal government, New York State's efforts to lower taxes reduce its financial capacity to respond to those in need.

The statistics included within are based on numerous sources. The 1980 Census and more recent census surveys are heavily used. Unfortunately, the lack of complete, updated data has made estimates of state and local demographics incomplete and comparisons between recent national data and older local data difficult. We have listed our sources on each page.

Throughout the book, we have used the official poverty level established by the national government, and adjusted annually to reflect the cost of living. In 1984, the poverty level for a family of four was $10,609. When we refer to "near-poor", we use census figures reflective of the population at 125% of the poverty line.

Despite the lack of comprehensive current data, we are convinced that our portrait is a realistic one. The stark reality it portrays is not the pretty picture of children we would wish to paint.

Changing this portrait of New York's children will require not only moral determination, but also a substantial financial commitment. We are convinced that the people of New York, its policy makers and legislators, will seek solutions to children's hunger and deprivation. They will wish to protect the health of our children and ensure their emotional growth and intellectual preparedness for adulthood.

We pray that they find the resolve to make the crucial investments our children need.

EVE BLOCK BROOKS
JANUARY 1986

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Overview

One of every four New Yorkers is a child.

Today in New York State there are 5.2 million children under the age of 21. 1,400,000 are under the age of five. In 1980, 68.8% of New Yorkers under 21 were white, 16.1% were black and 12.4% were of Spanish-speaking origin. The remaining 2.7% are primarily children of Native American and Asian origin.

In New York City, 36% were white, 30% were black and 27.9% were of Spanish-speaking origin. In the balance of the state, 88% were white, 7% were black and 3% were of Spanish-speaking origin.

SOURCE:
U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1980 Census of the Population: New York State.
NYS Council on Children and Families, analysis of *1983 Current Population Survey: Estimates Derived From A Sample Of 5,000 Households In New York State*, by New York State Commerce Department Data Center.

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26% of New York State's children under 18 are poor; almost 4% above the national average.

Impoverished is the single word which best described New York State's children in the 1980's. Between 1970 and 1983, the state's poverty rate among those under 18 rose 13%. Over half of the increase occurred between 1980 and 1983, when an additional 350,000 children fell below the poverty line. Today, 1,236,800 children in New York State live in poverty.

The U.S. official poverty line is adjusted annually to account for cost-of-living increases. In 1984, the poverty line for a family of four was set at $10,609. An individual working full time at minimum wage makes $7,000 annually, $3,609 below the poverty line.

Nationally, about 2.5 million children are living in poverty despite having a full-time adult worker in the family.

SOURCE:
NYS Department of Commerce Data Center, *1983 Current Population Survey.*
NYS Council on Children and Families, *Trends*, January 1983.

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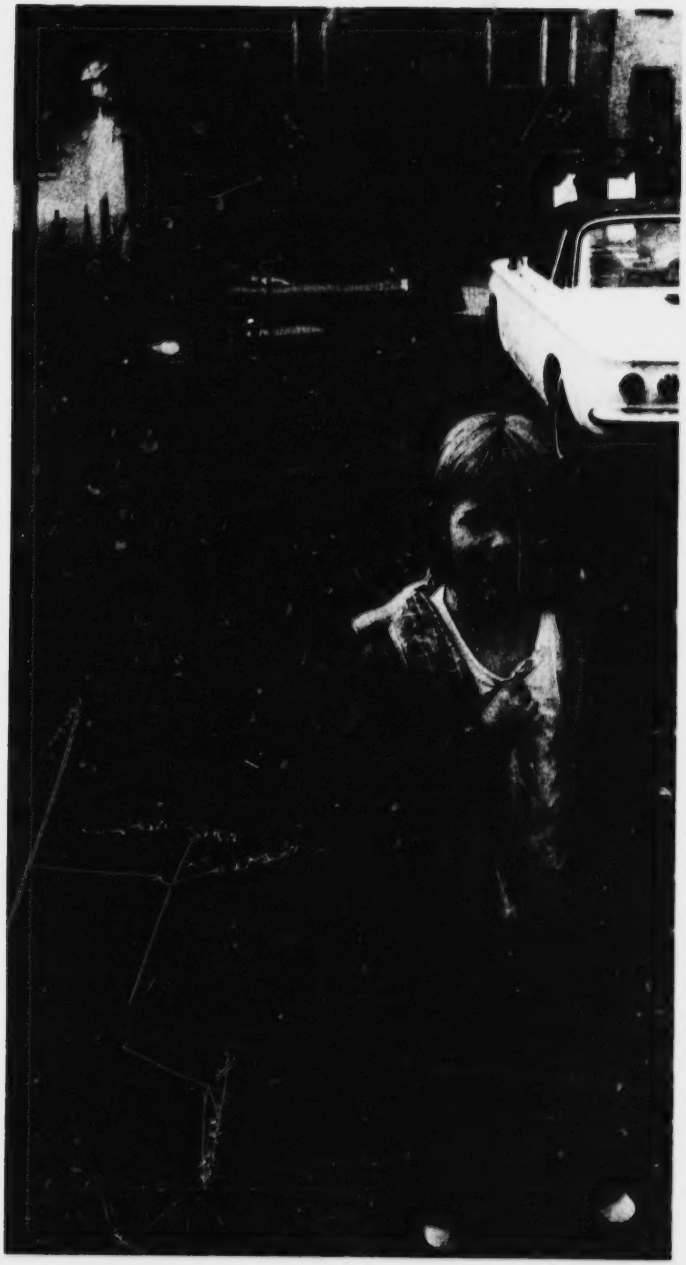
Approximately 40% of all New Yorkers living in poverty are children; 43% of New York's poor children are white.

One of every two black and one of every three Hispanic children are poor.

Poverty rates are highest among our youngest children. A child born in New York State in 1970 had a one in ten chance of being poor. Today, a child's chances of being born into poverty are nearing one in three. Over a quarter of New Yorkers under age 18, but even more of those under age five, are poor.

While blacks and Hispanics account for 30% of New York's child population, they comprise 57% of the state's poor and 54% of it's near-poor children.

SOURCE:
NYS Department of Commerce Data Center, *1983 Current Population Survey.*
NYS Council on Children and Families, *Trends*, January 1983.
U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1980 Census.



7

Of the state's poor children, 550,000, or 63%, live in New York City. Poverty jeopardizes our other cities as well.

In 1980, over 30% of New York City's children lived in poverty, as did 31% in Buffalo, 27% in Rochester and 25% in Syracuse. By 1982, over 40% of New York City's children were living in poverty and this proportion is expected to increase over the next four years.

POVERTY IN OUR CITIES IN 1980

TOTAL POPULATION

CITY	POPULATION	IN POVERTY
NEW YORK	6,963,692	20%
BUFFALO	348,963	20.7%
ROCHESTER	232,062	17.5%
SYRACUSE	159,422	18.4%
YONKERS	192,836	9.8%

CHILD POPULATION

CITY	POPULATION	IN POVERTY
NEW YORK	1,735,292	31.8%
BUFFALO	88,257	30.7%
ROCHESTER	62,619	26.6%
SYRACUSE	38,656	24.9%
YONKERS	44,308	16.9%

ELDERLY POPULATION

CITY	POPULATION	IN POVERTY
NEW YORK	906,140	14.4%
BUFFALO	51,288	13.6%
ROCHESTER	30,095	11.1%
SYRACUSE	23,073	10.8%
YONKERS	27,892	8.2%

Since 1980, the poverty rate among children in the Big Five Cities has risen appreciably. Updated data is not yet available.

SOURCE:
U.S. Bureau of Census, 1980 Census.
David Tobis, "Services to Children," in *Setting Municipal Priorities 1986*, Brecher and Horton, eds., New York, 1985.

9

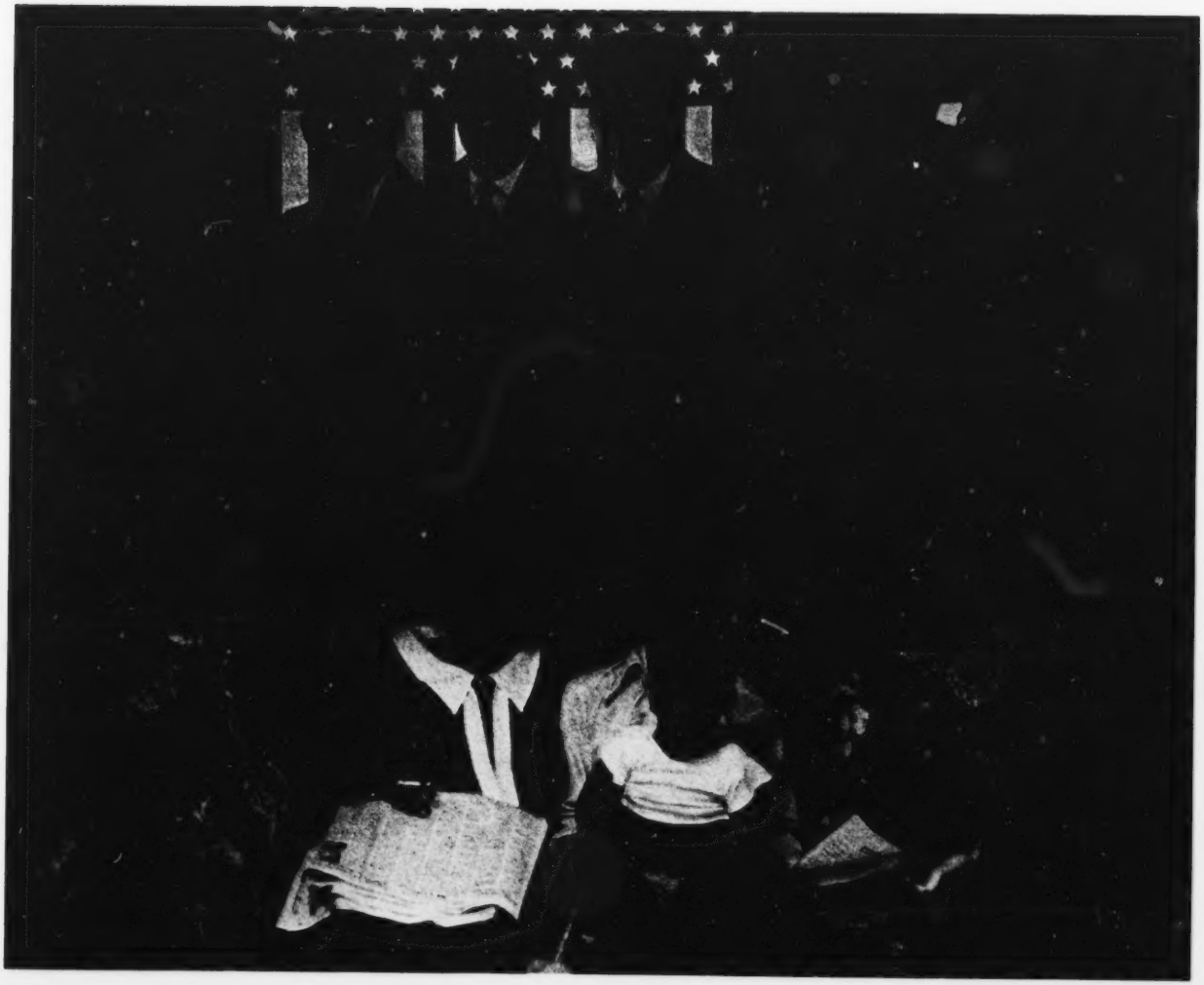
There are 666,000 single-parent families in New York State; 90% are headed by women; 57% of these female-headed households are poor.

In New York City, over 37% of all children were living in single-parent families as of 1980. By 1984, almost 25% of all families nationally were headed by single parents.

The number of New York's single-parent families more than doubled between 1970 and 1983, a growth rate 1.7 times faster than in the nation as a whole. If this trend continues, there will be an 80% increase in the state's single-parent families between 1980 and 1990, when 1.8 million children will be living with a single parent.

Today, two-thirds of all New York's poor children live in female-headed households.

SOURCE:
NYS Department of Commerce Data Center, *1983 Current Population Survey.*
U.S. Bureau of Census, 1980 Census.
U.S. Congress, House Ways and Means Committee, cited in *New York Times,* October 20, 1985.
NYS Council on Children and Families, *Trends,* January 1983.



Over 500,000 children living in poverty in New York State do not receive public assistance. Families receiving full benefits and food stamps still live almost 20% below the federal poverty line.

Benefit and eligibility levels have not kept pace with inflation. In 1973, 86% of all poor children in New York State received public assistance. Today, ADC is reaching 737,237 children — only 59% of New York State's poor children.

ADC (Aid to Dependent Children), the major public assistance program, provides monthly stipends for food, shelter and other necessities for families with minor children without sufficient means of support. Benefit levels are set by the state; the federal, state and local governments share the costs. In 1986, the basic monthly grant for a family of four, excluding shelter, is $327.

The 1981 federal budget cuts reduced public assistance benefits for 100,000 children in New York State. 41,000 children lost their benefits completely, 33,000 in New York City alone.

SOURCE:
NYS Department of Social Services, *Social Statistics*, April 1985.
NYS Department of Commerce Data Center, *1983 Current Population Survey.*
Statewide Youth Advocacy, *The New York State Children's Budget Book 1984-85.*

13

Families with children are falling into poverty faster than all others.

A single mother of three earning a salary of $11,456 in 1984 paid $1,384 in federal income taxes, more than Boeing, General Electric, DuPont, Texaco, Mobil and AT&T combined paid in 1983. These corporations earned $13.7 billion in profits.

In 1982, about half of all individuals and families living in poverty paid federal income taxes, and the amount they paid increased 58% from 1980 to 1982.

The gap between upper and lower income families is wider now than at any time since 1947.

INCIDENCE OF POVERTY AMONG THE GENERAL POPULATION

IN POVERTY	1970	1980	1983
NYS FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN	10%	16%	23%
U.S. FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN	14.9%	17.9%	21.7%
AMERICANS 65 AND OLDER	24.5%	15.7%	14.1%

SOURCE:
New York Times, October 20, 1985.
House Select Committee on Children, Youth and Families, *Tax Policy: How Do Families Fare?*, October 1985 and *Tax Policy: What Do Families Need?*, April 1985.
U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Money, Income and Poverty Status of Families and Persons in the United States: 1984*, August 1985.
CHART SOURCE:
NYS Department of Commerce Data Center, *1983 Current Population Survey.*
U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of The Census, *Money, Income and Poverty Status of Families and Persons in the United States: 1983*, Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 145.

15

Children's Health Care

2,856 infants in New York State in 1983 died before their first birthday.

In 1982, New York State had the 11th highest infant mortality rate, and the 12th highest rate of low birthweight babies among the 50 states.

Low birthweight infants are three times more likely to suffer from birth defects, 10 times more likely to be mentally retarded, and have mortality rates 20 times higher than normal birthweight infants. The mother's nutrition is a critical factor in the infant's birthweight.

Black and Hispanic infants are over a third more likely to die before their first birthday, and over two times more likely to be born with low birthweights than the general population.

SOURCE:
NYS Department of Health, *Vital Statistics of New York State, 1983.*
Children's Defense Fund, *A Children's Defense Budget: An Analysis of the President's FY 1986 Budget and Children* and *The Data Book: The Nation, States and Cities.*
House Select Committee on Children, Youth and Families, *Children, Youth and Families in the Northeast,* July 1983.

17

Of all 50 states, New York has the highest percentage of women receiving late or no prenatal care.

In 1982, New York ranked next to last in supplying prenatal care to minority women. Only South Dakota supplied less prenatal care to minority mothers that year.

Infants born to adolescents are more vulnerable to low birthweights. Almost one out of four adolescent mothers have no prenatal care before the seventh month of pregnancy.

In two-thirds of New York's upstate counties, the only prenatal care available is offered by private physicians. Because many private doctors take few Medicaid patients, poor and low income women are, in effect, excluded from prenatal care.

Every dollar invested in prenatal care may save as much as $3.38 in later health care costs.

SOURCE:
Children's Defense Fund, *The Data Book.*
NYS Council on Children and Families, *Special Report — Adolescent Pregnancy,* June 1984.
NYS Department of Health, *Vital Statistics of New York State, 1984,* and *Adolescent Reproductive Health,* April 1983.
House Select Committee on Children, Youth and Families, *Opportunities for Success: Cost Effective Programs for Children,* August 1985.

SIEMENS

In 1982, there were 66,000 teenage pregnancies in New York State resulting in 37,000 abortions, the birth of 28,000 children, and 1,000 stillborns.

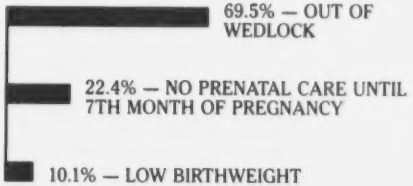
20% of teen births were the mother's second or third child. New York State has the second highest out-of-wedlock teenage birthrate among the 50 states.

Sweden's teen pregnancy rate is one-third that of the United States. Swedish schools have an ongoing program of reproductive biology and contraceptive education.

While it is estimated that the state could save $6.60 for every dollar it invests in family planning, 44% of New York's teenage females had no access to such services in 1982.

BIRTHS TO TEENAGE MOTHERS IN NEW YORK STATE

11.3% of all births in New York State were to teenage mothers.



SOURCE:
NYS Council on Children and Families, *Special Report — Adolescent Pregnancy.*
Children's Defense Fund, *The Data Book.*
Time, December 9, 1985, *Children Having Children.*
Statewide Youth Advocacy, *Children's Budget Book 1985-86.*

New York State's Medicaid eligibility criteria discriminate against large families, denying coverage to over 100,000 poor children.

Although Medicaid is a federal program, each state sets its own eligibility levels. In New York, these levels have not kept pace with inflation. In 1966, families with incomes 85% above the poverty line received Medicaid benefits.

Today, a family of six must be living 51% below the poverty line before qualifying for Medicaid. A family of two living only 2% below the poverty line qualifies.

In 1980, 34% of New York's children in poverty received no Medicaid benefits.

For uninsured children, health care remains crisis-oriented. Routine check-ups and basic immunizations are out of reach.

SOURCE:
Statewide Youth Advocacy, *Children's Budget Book 1985-86.*
NYS Department of Social Services, *Social Statistics.*
Children's Defense Fund, *A Children's Defense Budget, 1985.*

For New Yorkers receiving Medicaid, the Child Health Assurance Program (CHAP) is available to provide preventive health care to children. Only 13.9% of eligible children use the program.

20% of the children eligible for CHAP never see a primary health care provider before age 21, and 66% seek care only in emergencies.

One dollar spent on immunizations saves $10 in later medical costs.

SOURCE:
Statewide Youth Advocacy, *Children's Budget Book 1985-86.*
NYS Department of Social Services, *Social Statistics.*
House Select Committee on Children, Youth and Families, *Opportunities for Success.*

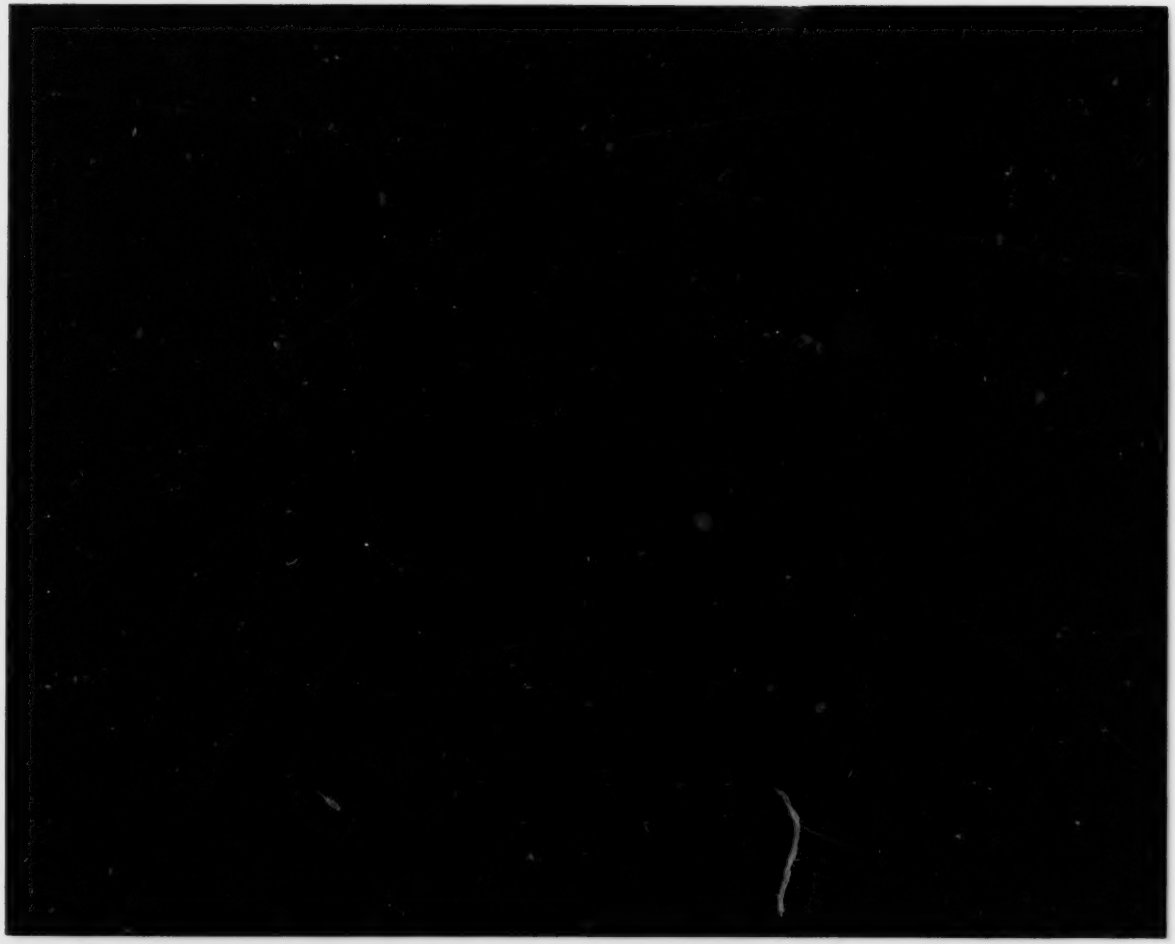
31

Over 6,000 New York State children tested in 1982 had lead poisoning; nearly 10,000 had iron deficiencies.

Lead from paint in old housing and automobile emissions poisons young children, causing brain damage and other health problems. Lead also blocks iron absorption, causing anemia.

Nationally, elevated blood levels of lead were detected in 12.2% of the black, but only 2% of the white children.

SOURCE:
NYS Health Department, Bureau of Health Statistics, 1985 data.



Children under 18 make up 28% of the population but receive only 6.5% of New York's mental health budget.

In spite of the cost-effectiveness and therapeutic benefits of early diagnosis and community-based preventive intervention, 87% of children's mental health funding goes to institutional care and less than 1% is spent on early intervention services.

SOURCE:
Statewide Youth Advocacy, *Children's Budget Book 1985-86.*

29

An estimated 20% of all New York adolescents are alcohol abusers; over 60% have used a controlled substance.

Fifty-thousand 14 to 17-year-olds could be classified as alcoholics.

In 1983, 26% of New York's youth were regular users of drugs.

SOURCE:
NYS Division of Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse, *Five Year Comprehensive Plan for Alcoholism Services in New York State: 1984-89*, December 1983.
NYS Division of Substance Abuse Services, *Statewide Comprehensive Five Year Plan for 1984-85 through 1988-89*, December 1983.

37

Between 1970 and 1980, New York saw a 42% increase in the number of teenagers taking their own lives.

Ninety-five New York teenagers killed themselves during 1983; there were almost certainly numerous others recorded as "accidents."

A survey of runaway youths living in New York City's largest emergency shelter showed that one of every three of the girls, and one of every six of the boys had attempted suicide at least once.

SOURCE:
Division for Youth, *Masterplan '84.*
NYS Department of Health, *Vital Statistics of New York State, 1983.*
S. Rule, "Many Runaways Found to Have Tried Suicide," *New York Times,* January 1984.

33

Hunger and Nutrition

The spectre of hunger is with us again, yet over a half-million New York State children who are eligible for food stamps are not receiving them.

Because benefits are roughly 45¢ per person per meal, even those receiving Food Stamps routinely run out before the end of the month and must rely on food pantries or relatives in order to eat.

Hunger is growing. Approximately 1.5 million New Yorkers — 700,000 upstate — go hungry in any given month. National demand for emergency food grew by 17% in 1985.

A 5% increase in Food Stamp participation could bring as much as $95 million in federal funds into New York's economy.

SOURCE:
Hunger Watch — New York State, *Part I, Profile of 'At Risk' Populations and Service Agencies*, February 1984.
NYS Committee Against Hunger, *The Summer Hunger Crisis*, July 1985.
Food Research and Action Center, Washington, D.C.
Statewide Emergency Network for Social and Economic Security, *Counterbudget 1985-86*.

41

609,000 women, infants and children are eligible for WIC benefits, but funds are too limited. Even with state supplementary programs, 329,000 receive no benefits.

WIC is the federal feeding program which provides essential supplementary food for pregnant and lactating mothers, infants and young children.

Even though New York is one of the only states that offers WIC supplemental nutrition assistance programs, these combined state and federal benefits only reach 280,000 persons, or 45.9% of those eligible.

For every $1.00 invested in WIC, studies show a $3.00 savings in hospital costs for premature and low-weight babies.

SOURCE:
Statewide Emergency Network For Social and Economic Security, *Counterbudget 1985-86.*
House Select Committee on Children, Youth and Families, *Opportunites for Success.*

43

Federal budget cuts eliminated 120,000 children from the free school lunch program between 1981 and 1983; 628,500 lost subsidized milk.

At a time when U.S. farmers are turning surplus milk into cheese to recoup their losses, the federal milk program for poor children was cut 74%.

Today, 27% of New York's children in poverty do not receive free school lunches.

SOURCE:
NYS Department of Social Services Food Stamp Bureau.
Division of Educational Finance, Child Nutrition Reimbursement Unit.

45

Child Care and Pre-school Education

Publicly subsidized child care is essential to single-parent self-sufficiency.

In a 1983 Monroe County study, almost half of the families who lost publicly subsidized day care later applied for some form of public assistance they had not received before losing their child care.

Every $1.00 spent on child care saves as much as $3.00 in welfare expenditures.

SOURCE:
Children's Defense Fund — Ohio.
Center for Governmental Research, *Income Eligible Day Care Client Impact Survey: Effects of Cutting Day Care Subsidies to Low Income Families*, December 1983.
David Tobis, "Services to Children", in *Setting Municipal Priorities 1986.*

47

41

Due to insufficient funding, 90% of all children eligible for Head Start programs cannot be enrolled.

State funded experimental pre-kindergarten programs are growing to help meet the demand.

Head Start provides developmental education, school readiness, health services and parent training. Quality pre-school education increases school success and lowers drop-out rates.

A $1.00 investment in preschool education returns $4.75 in savings in lower special education and welfare costs.

SOURCE:
House Select Committee on Children, Youth and Families, *Opportunites for Success.*

43

Statewide, only one out of five children whose families earn less than $15,000 a year receives a child care subsidy.

The state estimates that 260,370 children 0 to 12 years old have parents who are either working or in training and earn less than $15,000 a year. However, state-subsidized child care serves only 46,300 children monthly in New York City; 6,062 in the rest of the state.

As of 1983, 33 of the state's counties provided no day care for non-welfare recipients. Upstate, as many as 46% of all children previously in publicly funded day care lost subsidies due to federal budget cuts.

SOURCE:
NYS Department of Social Services Estimates for State Child Care Commission based on current population survey, U.S. Bureau of Census, October 1984.
Where Have All The Children Gone? A Study of Day Care Cuts in New York State, NYS Child Care Coordinating Council and Statewide Youth Advocacy.

51

45

There are hundreds of thousands of latch-key children in New York State.

There are 690,000 six to 12-year-olds whose parents work and are not at home with them after school. 152,700 of these are from homes that earn under $15,000 per year. Child care services for school aged children are particularly sparse.

Almost 42,000 six to 12-year-old children in New York City are on waiting lists for subsidized child care. Only 1,400 upstate slots for this age group are subsidized.

The availability of after school child care is limited by problems of transportation. Simple changes in state law would enable school districts to transport children to after school care.

SOURCE:
New York State Data for State Commission on Child Care.

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Tompkins, Orange, Dutchess, Sullivan and Ulster counties, pay family day care providers a maximum of $35 per week for full-time child care.

It costs $35 per week to board a dog in a kennel.

New York State sets a maximum of $60 per week, $97.75 per week in New York City, for full-time child care. The state sets no minimum.

SOURCE:
Child Care Coordinating Council and New York State Department of Social Services.

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Education and Employment

One out of every three New York State students fails to complete high school.

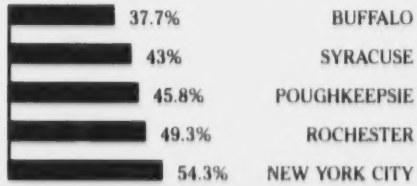
Minority and urban youth are even less likely to graduate from high school. Moreover, 90% of the state's children in special education programs do not graduate.

Nationally, pregnancy is a factor in 80% of the female dropout population.

In 1983, New York State ranked 45th in the nation in its high school graduation rate. In the same year, New York City Board of Education estimated a 41.7% dropout rate.

HIGH SCHOOL DROP-OUT RATE BY CITY

Percent of those enrolled in 9th grade in 1980 who were not present in the 12th grade four years later:



This is raw New York State Education Department data, not adjusted for movement to other school districts or private schools. Many dropouts never enter the 9th grade.

SOURCE:
The Crisis In Public Education: A Report of the New York Hearing: Advocates for Children of New York, 1985.
Gerald Boyd "Drop Out Rate is Up Sharply Since 1972, Survey Says",*New York Times*, January 6, 1984.

New York State is second only to Illinois in the extent to which black children are segregated within its public schools. For Hispanic children, New York's schools are the most segregated in the nation.

Over 50% of New York's black and Hispanic students attend schools with 90 to 100% minority enrollments.

Nationally, black and white high school graduates in 1977 were equally likely to attend college; by 1982, white students were 45% more likely than blacks to do so.

SOURCE:
NYS Education Department Information Center, *Racial/Ethnic Distribution of Public School Students and Staff, New York State 1982-83.*
Children's Defense Fund, *Black and White Children in America,* Washington, D.C., 1985.

Introduction
to
Mathematics

More than 120,000 children have been suspended from New York schools each year since 1980.

The use of school suspensions has increased dramatically, almost to the exclusion of educational alternatives. In Rochester, the number of suspensions has increased 145% over the past five years; New York City saw a 178% increase between 1970 and 1983.

While black students comprised 24% of New York's public school population in 1980, they received a disproportionate 34% of the out-of-school suspensions issued that year.

School counseling services are alarmingly unavailable. In 1983, student-to-guidance staff ratios were reported to be 990:1 for New York City and 567:1 upstate.

SOURCE:
U.S. Office of Civil Rights, 1982 survey.
Statewide Youth Advocacy, *Children's Budget Book 1985-86.*

260,000 New York school children receive special education services.

New York educates 55% of its educationally handicapped students in segregated, rather than mainstreamed, classrooms. In contrast, 67% of the special education population nationally receives instruction in regular classrooms.

SOURCE:
Public Education Association, *Mainstreaming in New York: Children Caught in the Currents*, New York, 1984.

New York's teenage unemployment rate is 25%; for black and Hispanic youth the rate is over 40%.

A recent estimate showed 260,000 of New York City's 16 to 24-year-olds lacking basic employability skills; 160,000 were out of school.

The direct cost to New York City of providing public assistance and other benefits to unemployed youth is over $62 million per year. For every thousand youth who gain full-time employment and are removed from ADC rolls, NYC could save over a million dollars.

45% of federal youth employment and training funds were cut between 1981 and 1983.

SOURCE:
Statewide Youth Advocacy, *Children's Budget Book 1985-86.*
Interface, *Youth Employment in New York City: The Cost of Doing Nothing,* June 1983.

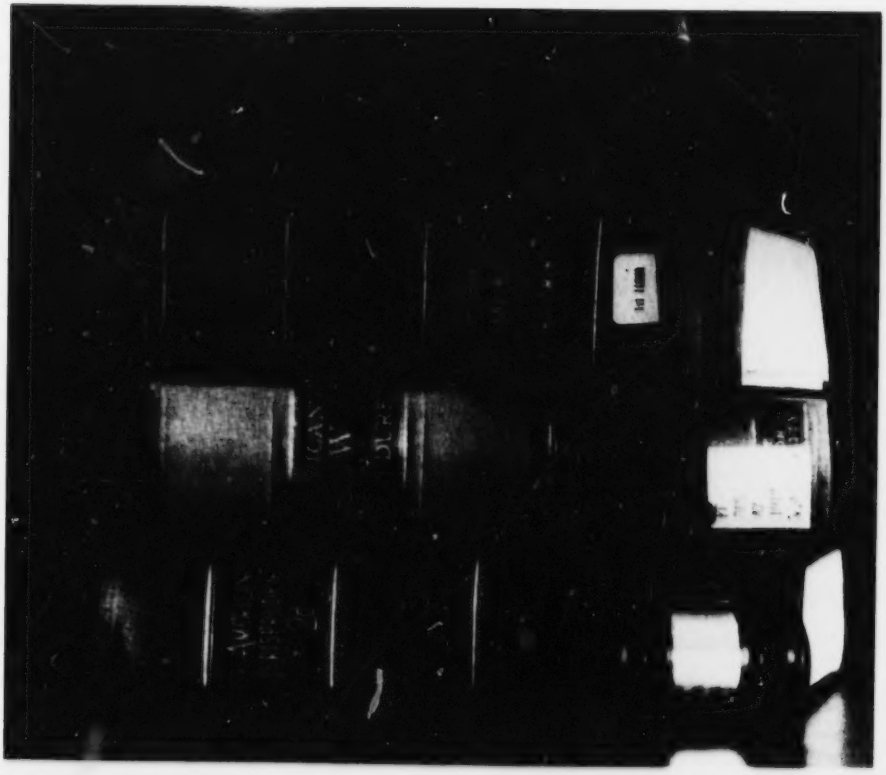
Juvenile Justice

Children as young as 13 may be tried in criminal court as juvenile offenders and sentenced to terms comparable to those adults serve for serious crimes.

While the number of 13 to 15-year-olds tried in criminal court has decreased in recent years, New York's Juvenile Offender Law remains one of the harshest in the nation. In 1984, over 400 juvenile offenders were placed with the Division for Youth.

Blacks and Hispanics comprise 28% of the state's under age 18 population, but 84% of those placed in New York's most restrictive secure juvenile facilities.

SOURCE:
NYS Division for Youth, *Masterplan '84.*

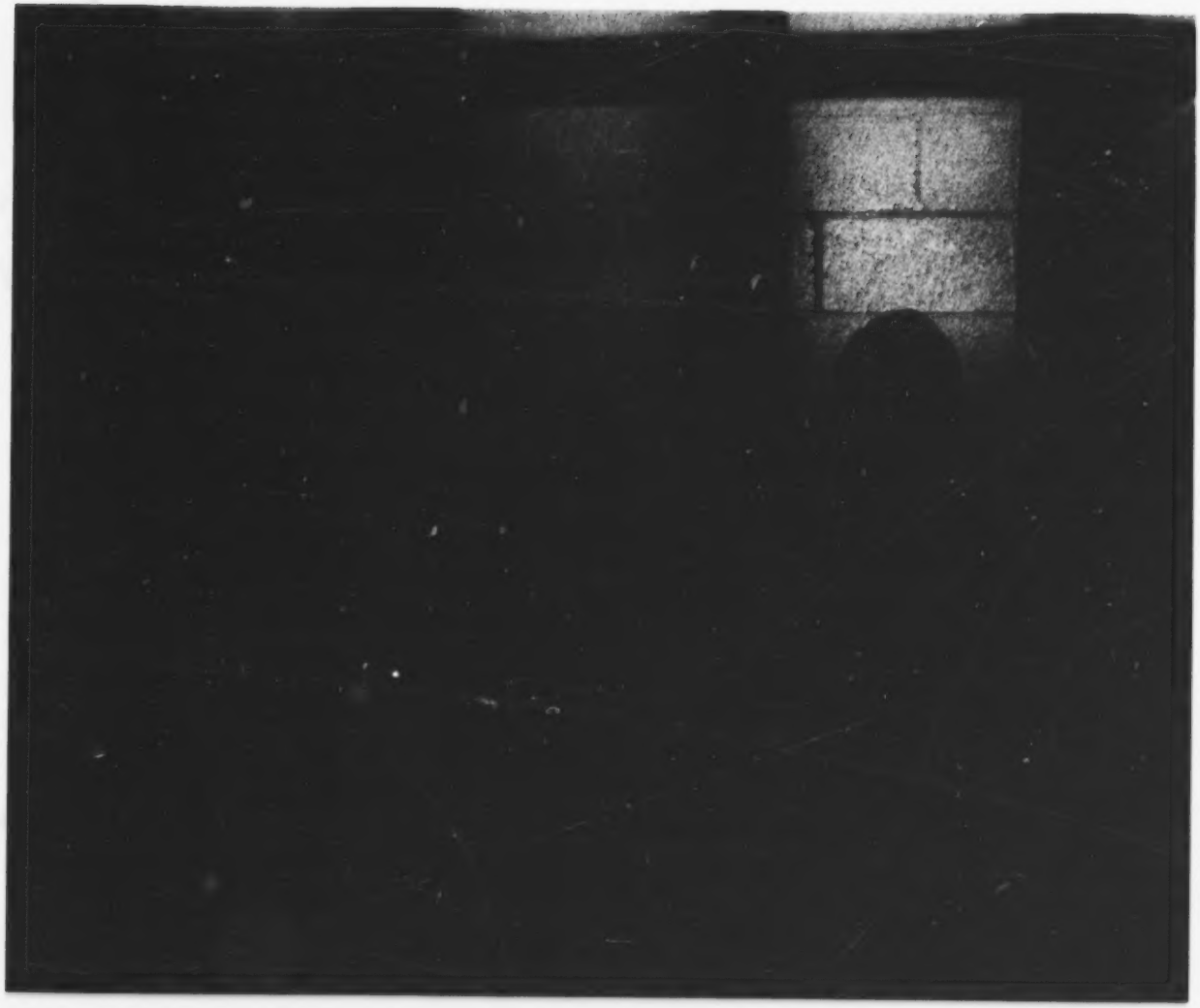


3,000 youth between the ages of 16 and 18 are incarcerated in adult prisons and jails in New York State on any given day.

In 1982, approximately 9,060 16 to 21-year-olds were committed and sentenced to county jails and penitentiaries.

New York is one of only four states which hold 16-year-olds criminally liable for their actions on a regular basis.

SOURCE:
Statewide Youth Advocacy, unpublished paper.
NYS Division for Youth, *Masterplan '84.*



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15,000 youth were charged with juvenile delinquency in 1983.

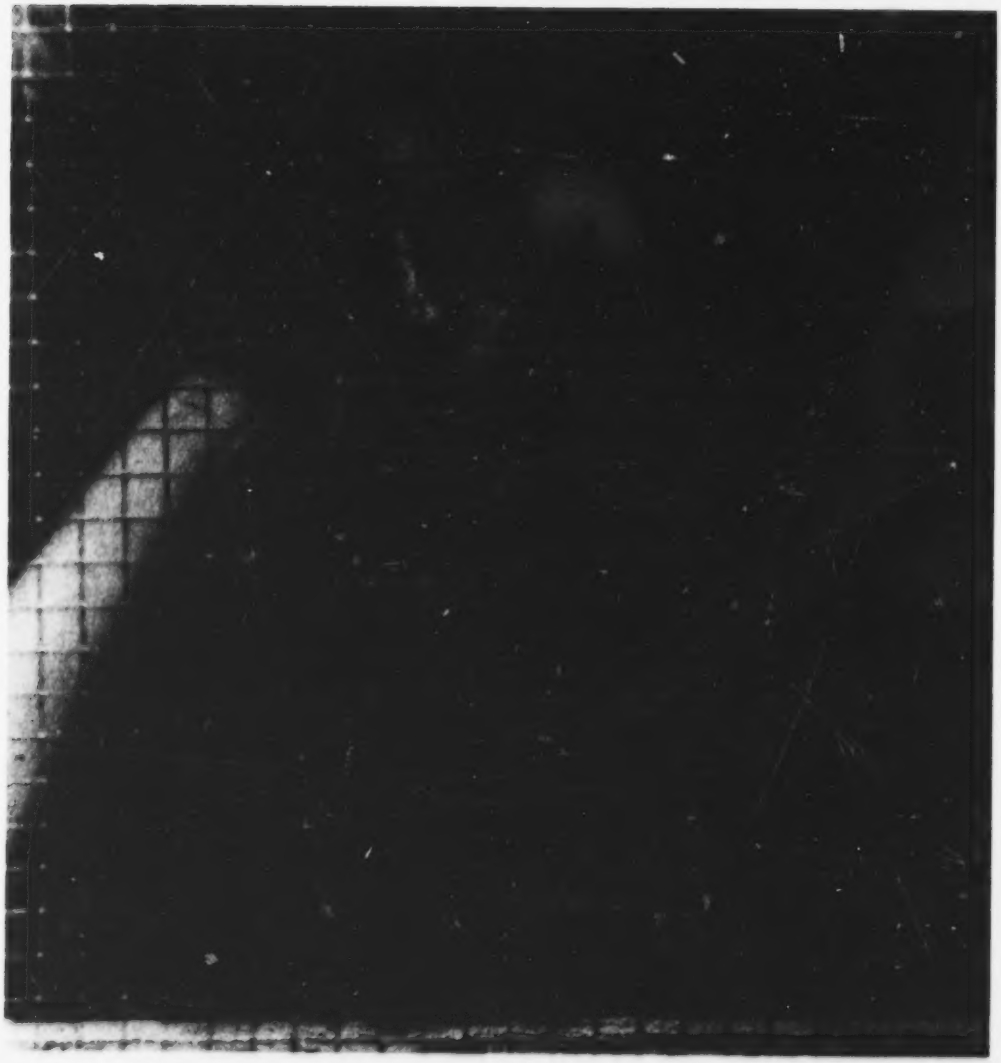
1,553 were placed with the New York State Division for Youth; approximately 750 with the Department of Social Services.

As many as 50% of all DFY-placed teenagers read three or more years below grade level; in math, 78% of DFY's 17-year-olds score four or more years below grade level.

20% of DFY placements are "re-placements"; yet DFY aftercare served 55% fewer youth in 1983 than in 1978.

Placing a child in a limited secure facility with the Division for Youth costs the state $66,430 per year; one year of aftercare costs less than $5,000.

SOURCE:
NYS Division for Youth, *Masterplan '84.*
NYS Council on Children and Families, *Characteristics of Children in Out Of Home Care,* January 1984.
Legislative Committee on Expenditure Review, *Education of Children Under State Care or Custody,* November 1983.



15,791 youth were charged with being persons in need of supervision (PINS) in 1983.

1,700 youth were placed for being beyond parental control, being truant, or running away from home.

One study found 37% of PINS were neglected.

A recent state statute ensures that all youth involved in PINS proceedings, and most involved in juvenile delinquency proceedings, will be eligible to receive preventive services designed to avert out-of-home placement.

Quality legal representation helps to secure just and appropriate decisions. Yet 45% of the attorneys representing children were found to be seriously or marginally inadequate.

SOURCE:
NYS Division for Youth *Masterplan '84*.
"Ungovernability: The Unjustifiable Jurisdiction 83(7)," *Yale Law Journal*, 1974.
Law Guardians in New York State, a study for the New York State Bar Association by Jane Knitzer, Statewide Youth Advocacy and Merril Sobie, Pace University Law School, 1984.

Children Alone and At Risk

In 1983, child abuse or neglect was suspected in the deaths of 188 New York children. 53 of these deaths were proven to be the result of abuse or neglect.

Between 1980 and 1983, the number of children involved in abuse or neglect reports in New York State increased by about 30%, rising to over 125,000. Investigations during 1983 found credible evidence of abuse or neglect in 40% of the reports filed.

Child protective workers in New York City often handle more than twice the maximum number of new cases suggested by the state. As of 1984, more than 150 new workers were needed to ensure necessary caseload reductions.

A 1984 state review of 200 abuse/neglect investigations in New York City found that 40% of the families determined to be in need of support services were neither provided direct services nor referred elsewhere.

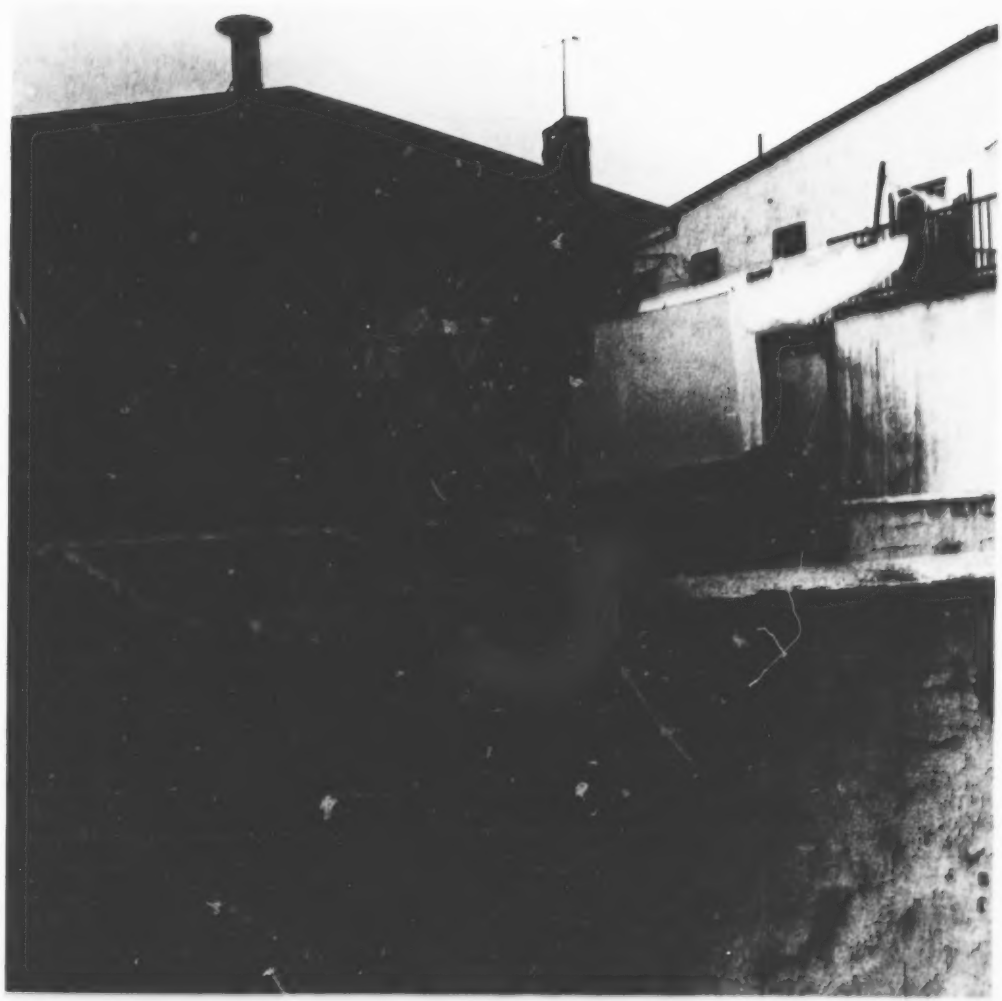
SOURCE:
NYS Office of General Education, the State Education Department, *Children: New York's Greatest Resource; the School's Role in Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect*, April 1985.
NYS Federation on Child Abuse and Neglect.
David Tobis, "Services to Children," in *Setting Municipal Priorities 1986*.

27,000 New York children live in foster homes, group homes, or institutions: over 16,000 of these children are from New York City.

The Child Welfare Reform Act of 1979 was designed to reduce the number and length of out-of-home placements through the provision of preventive services. The number of children in foster care dropped by one-fourth, from 36,400 in 1980 to 27,000 in 1985.

2,000 children have lingered in the foster care system for ten years or more. The mean years of placement in foster care is 2.65.

SOURCE:
NYS Department of Social Services, *Quarterly Summary of Characteristics of Children in Foster Care*, September 1985.



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In New York State, black children are six times more likely to be placed in foster care than are white children.

The proportion of black children in foster care — 45% — is almost three times their proportion in the state's youth population.

25% of today's foster children have had previous out-of-home placements.

SOURCE:
NYS Department of Social Services, *Quarterly Summary of Characteristics of Children in Foster Care*, September 1985.

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Almost 5,000 of New York State's children in foster care today are waiting to be adopted.

6,446 children and youth have a goal of discharge to independent living; many may become homeless.

According to the Child Welfare Reform Act of 1979, 4½ years may elapse before a child entering foster care can be adopted. Since 14-year-olds can legally refuse adoption, children entering foster care at older ages often never feel the security of adoption.

60% of New York's adopted children are adopted by their foster parents; 70% of those adopted receive state assistance for children with special needs.

For those not in school, foster care ends at age 18. Foster children are often ill-prepared educationally, emotionally or economically for independent living. An estimated 58% of youth in New York shelters for the homeless come from foster care, mental health or criminal justice backgrounds.

SOURCE:
NYS Department of Social Services, *Quarterly Summary of Characteristics of Children in Foster Care*, September 1985.
Project Aid, *Survey of New York City Shelters*, 1984.

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Homelessness

During three months in 1985, 5,800 families, including 17,000 children, sought emergency shelter in New York City. Adolescents comprise the fastest growing segment of the homeless population.

On any given night, 4,000 families, including 10,000 children, are housed in shelters and welfare hotels in New York City.

Twice as many New York City families are homeless today than in 1983.

Twenty thousand 16 to 21-year-olds are served annually by runaway and homeless shelters.

400 families with over 800 children in Westchester County are living in shelters with average stays of eight months per family.

Lack of affordable housing and reductions in federal housing support for low-income persons are to blame.

SOURCE:
New York Times, December 12, 1985.
Emergency Alliance for Homeless Families and Children, New York.
Office of Housing Services, Westchester County Department of Social Services, December 19, 1985.

The Children's Collaborative

You can help change this portrait.

Numerous organizations and countless individuals are working to create a better future for New York State's children. Often they focus on a single issue area, for example, child care, education or juvenile justice. Many groups have now come together, with support from Statewide Youth Advocacy staff, to forge a common, broad agenda for change. This coalition of child, youth and family advocates focuses on the needs of the whole child, the whole teenager, the whole family. This coalition is the **Children's Collaborative.**

You can join the **Children's Collaborative** and help promote a comprehensive package of budgetary recommendations aimed at improving the lives of New York's children and youth. As a member of the Collaborative, you will receive the Preliminary and Final Agenda, as well as all Legislative Alerts, Updates and Memos. You will be asked to spend a day in Albany, lobbying on behalf of children and youth and to participate in the Children's Budget Hearing.

By joining the Collaborative you will be joining advocates across the state speaking out on behalf of New York's children and youth; you will be helping to change this *Portrait of New York's Children.* For more information call **(716) 454-5419** or write:

The Children's Collaborative
P.O. Box 10631
Rochester, NY 14610

Statewide Youth Advocacy Inc.

Founded in 1976,

Statewide Youth Advocacy, Inc. is a not-for-profit agency working with organizations throughout New York State to improve the quality and delivery of services to our state's disadvantaged children and youth. SYA's efforts have resulted in:

- *New Laws*
- *Improved Regulations*
- *Ongoing Training Programs* in education, child welfare, and the special needs of runaway and homeless youth
- *State Budget Oversight* at the critical stages in the development of state budget: SYA has offered commentary on budget proposals, developing a Children's Collaborative Agenda that is supported by advocacy groups across the state and results in additional millions targeted for children and youth.

CURRENT PUBLICATIONS

- *PINS Jurisdiction in New York State Today: Critique and Recommendations for Reform* (1983)
- *Incarcerating Children: A Study of the New York State Secure Detention System* (1981)
- *Child Welfare Reform Act Practice Manual* (1984)
- *Education Law Manual for New York State* (revised 1985)
- *Analysis of the New York State Children's Budget 1985-86*
- *Where Have All The Children Gone? A Study of Day Care Cuts in New York State by the New York State Child Care Coordinating Council and Statewide Youth Advocacy* (1983)
- *Youth Advocacy* (SYA Newsletter)

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